

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for the manufacture of an innerspring assembly, which method comprises the steps of:

a) positioning a first string of pocketed coil springs in juxtaposition with a plurality of adhesive applicators, said adhesive applicators being disposed in mutually fixed relation on an axis parallel to a longitudinal axis of said first string so as to define a row of adhesive applicators that extends along the full extent of the first string,

b) applying adhesive from said adhesive applicators to pockets of said first string of pocketed coil springs, ~~wherein the amount and/or distribution of adhesive applied to each individual pocket is varied relative to the amount and/or distribution of adhesive applied to other pockets,~~ and

c) bringing said first string into adhesive contact with a second string of pocketed coil springs.

2. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein adhesive is applied from said plurality of adhesive applicators simultaneously or substantially simultaneously.

3. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first string of pocketed coil springs is positioned into juxtaposition with the adhesive applicators, by being fed longitudinally along, and then displaced transversely from, an axis parallel to said longitudinal axis of the first string.

4. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein following application of the adhesive to the first string, the first string is tipped into an upright position such that the surface of the first string to which adhesive has been applied is brought into contact with the surface of the second string.

5. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second string has immediately beforehand been processed in the same manner as the first string.

6. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein movements of the first string are brought about by suitable mechanical means, using electrical, hydraulic or pneumatic power.

7. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the adhesive which is applied to the first string is a hot melt adhesive.

8. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein adhesive is dispensed from the adhesive applicators with those applicators in fixed, stationary positions relative to the first string.

9. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein adhesive is dispensed from the adhesive applicators whilst movement of the applicators relative to the first string is taking place.

10. (original) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the first string is stationary and the applicators are moved.

11. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein adhesive is dispensed from the adhesive applicators whilst movement of the first string relative to the applicators is taking place.

12-36. (canceled)

37. (currently amended) A method for the manufacture of an innerspring assembly, which method comprises the steps of:

a) positioning a first string of pocketed coil springs in juxtaposition with a plurality of adhesive applicators, said adhesive applicators being disposed in mutually fixed

relation on an axis parallel to a longitudinal axis of said first string so as to define a row of adhesive applicators that extends along the full extent of the first string.

b) applying adhesive from said adhesive applicators to pockets of said first string of pocketed coil springs, wherein the amount and/or distribution of adhesive applied to each individual pocket is varied relative to the amount and/or distribution of adhesive applied to other pockets, and

c) bringing said first string into adhesive contact with a second string of pocketed coil springs,

such that the innerspring assembly comprises at least one region in which adjacent pockets of the first and second strings are connected by first quantities of adhesive, and at least one region in which adjacent pockets of the first and second strings are connected by second quantities of adhesive, said second quantities of adhesive being less than said first quantities of adhesive.

38. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 37, wherein adhesive is applied from said plurality of adhesive applicators simultaneously or substantially simultaneously.

39. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 37, wherein the first string of pocketed coil springs is positioned into juxtaposition with the adhesive applicators, by being fed longitudinally along, and then displaced transversely from, an axis parallel to said longitudinal axis of the first string.

40. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 37, wherein following application of the adhesive to the first string, the first string is tipped into an upright position such that the surface of the first string to which adhesive has been applied is brought into contact with the surface of the second string.

41. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 37, wherein the second string has immediately beforehand been processed in the same manner as the first string.

42. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 37, wherein movements of the first string are brought about by suitable mechanical means, using electrical, hydraulic or pneumatic power.

43. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 73, wherein the adhesive which is applied to the first string is a hot melt adhesive.

44. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 37, wherein adhesive is dispensed from the adhesive applicators with those applicators in fixed, stationary positions relative to the first string.

45. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 37, wherein adhesive is dispensed from the adhesive applicators whilst movement of the applicators relative to the first string is taking place.

46. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 45, wherein the first string is stationary and the applicators are moved.

47. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 37, wherein adhesive is dispensed from the adhesive applicators whilst movement of the first string relative to the applicators is taking place.

48. (new) A method for the manufacture of an innerspring assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the amount and/or distribution of adhesive applied to each individual pocket is varied relative to the amount and/or distribution of adhesive applied to other pockets.